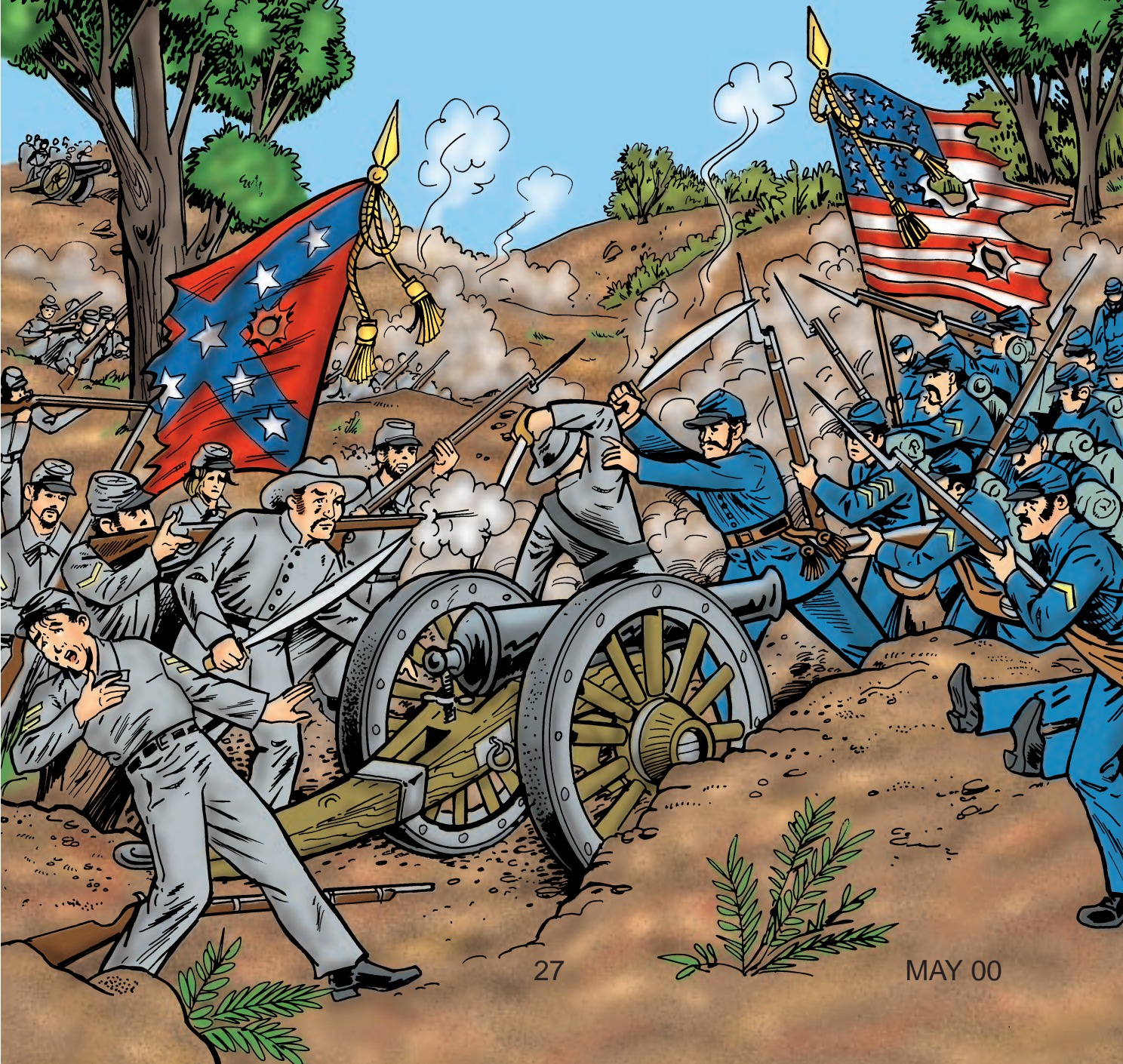


THE MEETING AT CULPEPER

From the bombardment of Fort Sumter in South Carolina in April of 1861 to the surrender at Appomattox, Virginia, in April of 1865, our country fought its bloodiest war over monumental issues that would alter the history of the world.

We all know who won this War Between the States, but when Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant was made General-in-Chief of all the Northern forces in March of 1864, the outcome was still in doubt.



Because of this, an historic, but little-known meeting took place on March 26, 1864, at General Grant's headquarters in Culpeper, Virginia. This is a tale about that meeting.

GOOD DAY, MR. PRESIDENT. WHAT BRINGS YOU TO CULPEPER, SIR?

WE HAVE THE FINEST FIGHTING MEN. WE HAVE THE WORLD'S BEST EQUIPMENT. WHY CAN'T WE END THIS BLOODY CONFLICT?

YOU'RE RIGHT. WE DO HAVE THE FINEST MEN AND THE BEST EQUIPMENT, BUT THOSE SOUTHERN BOYS HAVE KNOWN SOMETHING ALL ALONG THAT WE DIDN'T KNOW.

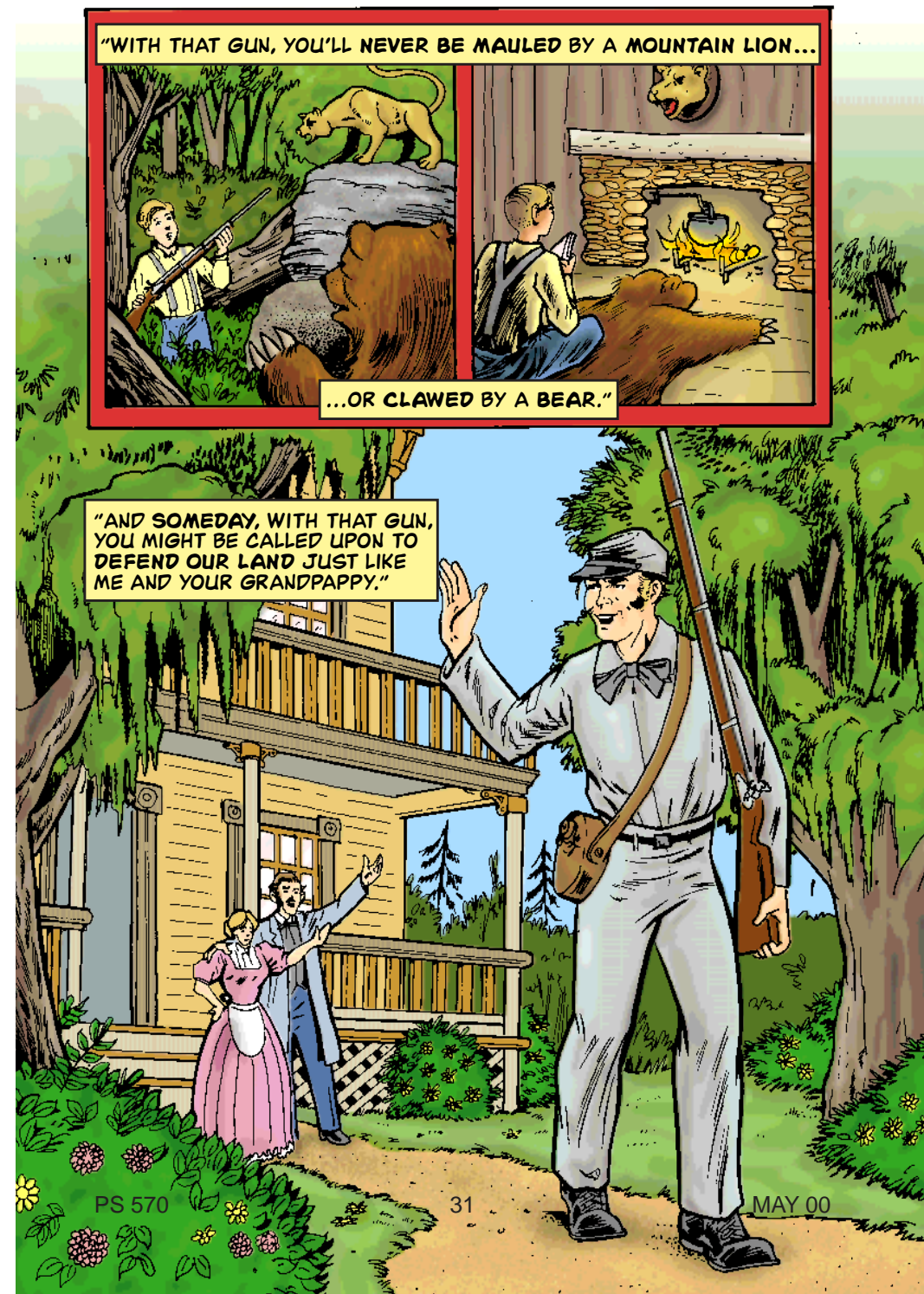
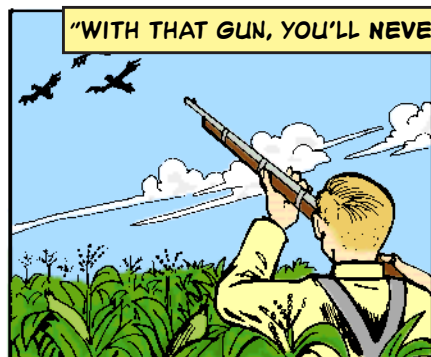
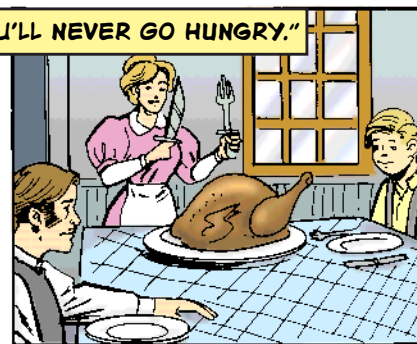
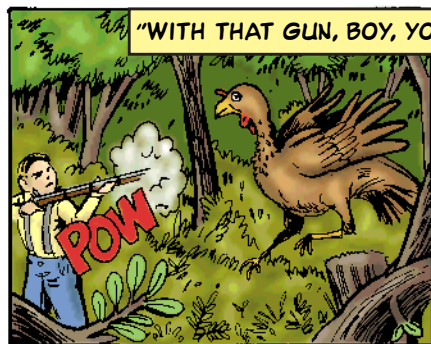
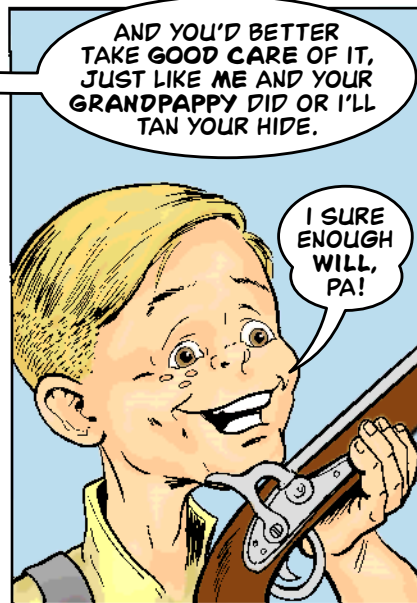
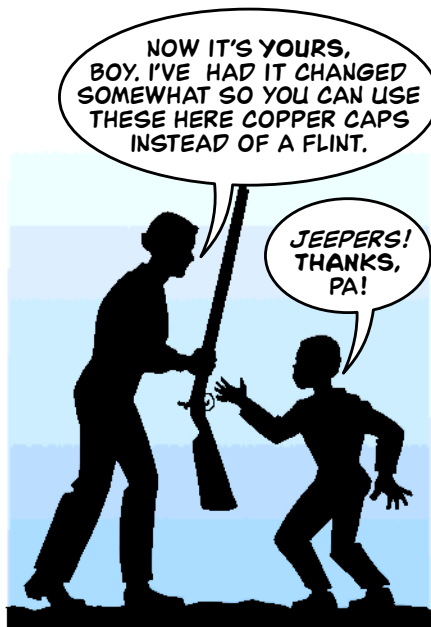
WHAT? TELL ME AND I'LL GIVE A CASE OF IT TO EVERY SOLDIER.

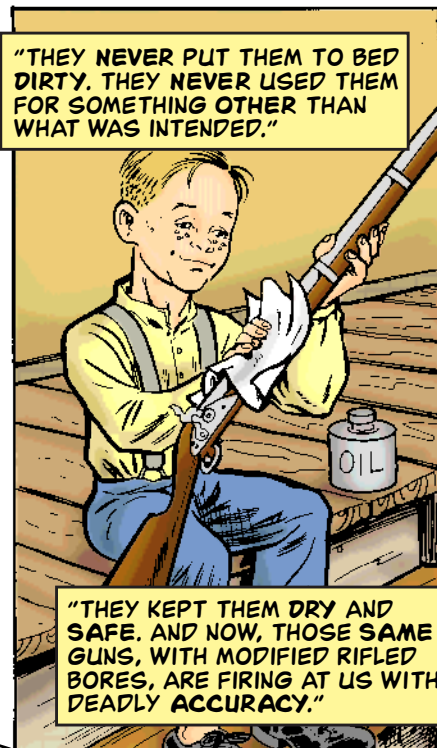
THEY KNOW HOW TO TAKE CARE OF THEIR EQUIPMENT. THEY KNOW HOW TO PREVENT DAMAGE BEFORE IT HAPPENS. MY SPIES HAVE TOLD ME THOSE SOUTHERN BOYS LEARNED IT AT THEIR DADDIES' KNEE.


BOY, IT'S YOUR TENTH BIRTHDAY AND IT'S TIME YOU HAD YOUR OWN GUN. AND, SON, YOU'D BETTER TAKE CARE OF IT, IF YOU EXPECT IT TO TAKE CARE OF YOU. NOW THIS HERE GUN STARTED OUT AS A FLINTLOCK MUSKET. MY PAPPY-YOUR GRANDPAPPY-STARRED DOWN THE BARREL OF THIS GUN AT OLD CORNWALLIS' TROOPS AT YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA IN 1781.

GRANDPAPPY TOLD ME ABOUT THAT. HE SAID THAT'S WHEN HE WON THE REVOLUTION!

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT. THEN HE GAVE IT TO ME ON MY TENTH BIRTHDAY, AND I WASN'T MUCH OLDER WHEN I FIRED A ROUND OR TWO ON A COLD JANUARY DAY IN 1815 AT OLD PAKENHAM'S BRITISH. I STOOD SHOULDER TO SHOULDER THAT DAY WITH THE BEST PRESIDENT THIS COUNTRY EVER HAD, ANDY JACKSON. OLD PAKENHAM NEVER WALKED AWAY FROM THAT BATTLE. COULD BE BECAUSE OF THIS VERY GUN.







GENERAL GRANT,
I THINK YOU'RE ON THE RIGHT
TRACK TO END THIS WAR. THIS,
UH, PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE,
THIS, UH, PM, SOUNDS LIKE
JUST THE THING.

THANK YOU, MR.
PRESIDENT. WE'LL PRESS
FORWARD WITH PM. I'M
SURE THE VICTORY
WILL BE OURS!

PM?
I LIKE THE
SOUND OF
THAT!